# When Paper Takes Flight

Estimate the distance and accuracy of your plane **before and after** each flight. Compare your results with the actual distances. When you begin gathering data, measure first by counting the steps you take from the starting line to where your plane landed and then from the centerline to your plane. Fill in the table with your count. Then use a yard stick or tape measure to find the actual distances in standard measurement. (If your teacher has a meter stick, use that to measure in metric units too.) Be as careful as possible when measuring. Fill in your data sheet as you go to keep accurate records of your test flights. When your classmates have all finished and each data table is complete, you may discuss your planes' performances based on you records. Take turns, follow the guidelines, and enjoy.

| Test Flight | Estimate **Distance** | | Estimate **Accuracy** | | Measure with **your feet** | | Actual Measurement **US Standard** | | Actual Measurement **Metric** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Before** Flight | **After** Flight | **Before** Flight | **After** Flight | **Distance** | **Accuracy** | **Distance** | **Accuracy** | **Distance** | **Accuracy** |
| **1** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **2** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **3** | | | | | | | | | | |

Discussion Questions:

How close was your estimate the first time?

Did you get better at estimating with each test flight?

Did your plane fly as far as you thought it would?

What do you think you could do to make your plane fly farther?

How accurate was your plane?

What do you think makes a paper plane fly straight?

What could you do to make your plane fly straighter?